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An
Inaugural Essay
on
Intermittent Fever
Submitted
To the Trust and Medical Faculty
of
The University of Pennsylvania
for
The Degree of M. D.
by
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of
South Carolina,
M.D. Lower Filbert Sch.
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March 8th -

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The subject which I have chosen for my Thesis, is Intermittent Fever. I have not been influenced in my choice by any prospects of originality, which this field exhibits, either as regards the causes, the remedies of the disease in question, but rather for the diversity of character as modified by climate, and the constitutional peculiarities of its subjects, furnishing materials for my purpose.

Intermittent Fevers generally, prevails in warm and damp countries, especially in low situations in the neighbourhood of streams and stagnant collections of water. It is not peculiar to any quarter of the globe, though much more prevalent and determinate in its character in some situations, than in others in the same parallel of latitude, nor does there appear to be any form of constitution which is exempt from its attack. There is, however, a considerable diversity in the liability of the various temperaments in this respect. The more common

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forms of intermittents, although marked by the most violent and determinate symptoms are not remarkably fatal in their consequences, comparatively, seldom terminating in death, until they have run into some other form of disease.

Intermittents have received specified appellations from the terms of recurrence of their paroxysms. Thus, when it appears daily, it is called a quotidian; when a day intervenes between those of its regular accessions, it is a tertian; when it arrives on the first and fourth a quartan. A double tertian consists in a paroxysm every day, the alternate ones being similar; also in two paroxysms on one day, and one on the next.

The double quartan is marked by two paroxysms on the first day, and two again on the fourth, and none in the interval. When there is a paroxysm of the first and second days, and none on the third, it is called a double quartan. The triple quartan has three paroxysms on every fourth

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day, also a paroxysm every day, every fourth one being similar.

Of these forms the tertian is most prevalent in this country. The patient in many instances experiences no premonitory symptoms of its attack, on the contrary, his spirits are not infrequently, more than commonly good on the day previous to the accession of the first paroxysm: on the next, however, he complains of drowsiness and languor, and is indisposed alike to labour and amusement; presently he is seized with a cold shivering, his skin is dry and constricted, he seeks the fire, or exposure to the sun, although in a warm summer month. The shivering and chills ✓ is at length succeeded by a fever, the violence of which is commensurate to the duration and ✓ access of the cold stage. Lastly, the fever terminates in a perspiration and leaves the patient, in many instances, free from complaint until the accession of another paroxysm.

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Thus, a paroxysm of intermittent fever is divided into three stages. The cold, the hot, and the sweating. The pulse during the first of these stages is very small and irregular; sensibility to the impression of external objects is greatly impaired. The urine is colourless and diminished in quantity. The secretory functions, generally appear to be impaired. The skin contracts, giving a sharpness to the features, and the general bulk of the body is reduced. The stupor which attends this stage, has in some instances, amounted almost to an entire suspension of mental action.

In the course of one or two hours, these symptoms begin to abate, and the second stage is ushered in by a general warmth pervading the system. The pulse becomes more full and action, the surface hot, thirst, head ache and throbbing in the brain supervene; in a word, the patient exhibits all the symptoms of excessive arterial action. After some time a moisture appears

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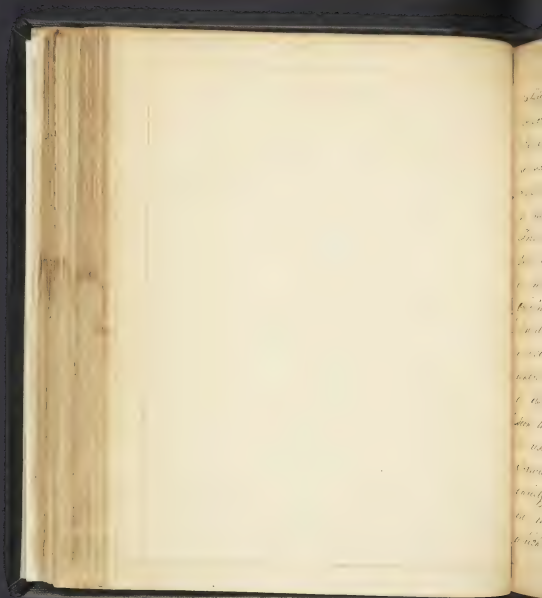


10. The interest on your indebtedness that the sum
of \$11,640 has not been distributed, is \$11,640, per annum.

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labile, which in some instances extends to the
various small ones, and in others entirely prevents
the use of the remedy. In the latter case the
nerve is diseased and broken, and the use of it
and although inferior to the powder, they are,
in many instances, by no means successful.
The eruptions sometimes affect the scrofula, or
the skin diseases of the face, in which Case
it may be combined with sulphur, or with
Gum, Resins, such as Olive, Sweet Almond
and such like, each with sometimes correct the
eruption. In the face, the eruptions, proper to the
nerve, are of the scrofula, or intertrigo, which
is the humoral disease, and the most incurable.
Here it is upon many occasions, other means must
be used. In such cases, the venous, Lymphatic,
Glandular, Lactiferous, and other vessels, and a
variety of vegetable juices, and some derived from
the Mineral Kingdom, form a large class, from
which the physician must choose.









sufficient sketch of the nature and cause of Intermittent Fever, and I therefore conclude with a few remarks on the consequences of this disease.

One of the most remarkable effects of Intermittents upon the system is the change of habit, previously mentioned. Nothing is more common than for a stout, short and full habited patient to recover from an Ague with a disposition to rapid growth, or that he becomes tall and perhaps spare in stature. This form of constitution, I am inclined to believe, is less susceptible to an attack of Intermittent, though it reacts upon the disease, when acquired with less energy, and protracts the period of its duration.

Visceral obstructions, are another and by no means uncommon consequence of the disease in question.

The liver and spleen, are most commonly affected in this way. The indurations thus pro-

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duced may in many instances be felt. They,
have received the vulgar appellation of ague cakes,
and for their removal we generally have recourse
to Mercury, which seldom fails in accomplish-
ing our objects; though it is sometimes expedient
to assist it by external applications, such as
Epispastics &c.

